

Graphic Novels for Teens

Bendis, Brian Michael. **Jinx: The Definitive Collection**. Image, 2001. 1582401799. 480 p. Gr. 10 & up. Bounty hunter Jinx tracks two men who might lead her to enough stolen money to allow her to quit her unsatisfying job in this gritty, definitive crime noir collection.

Bendis, Brian Michael. **Powers. Vol. 1: Who Killed Retro Girl**. Image, 2001. 1582401837. Gr. 9 & up. Detective Walker must investigate who killed Retro Girl, one of the most popular superheroes. Dense colors enhance the text. *op

Burns, Charles. **Black Hole**. Pantheon, 2005. 037542380X. 368 p. Gr. 10 & up. A group of mid-1970s high school students enjoy their everyday lives of partying, drugs, and sex, with one horrific deviation from reality: an apparently incurable sexually transmitted disease referred to only as "the Bug," which mutates its victims in grotesque ways. Won a 2006 Eisner Award. With nudity, sex, and disturbing imagery, this one is best for older teen collections.

Cloonan, Becky. **Flight, Volume 2**. Image, 2005. 1582404771. 432 p. Gr. 9 & Up. More than 30 accomplished young artists take off in this mostly wordless anthology and sequel to *Flight: Volume 1*. *op

Eisner, Will. **The Contract with God Trilogy: Life on Dropsie Avenue**. Norton & Company, 2005. 0393061051. 498 p. Gr. 9 & Up. *Contract with God* was originally published in 1978 and is considered by many to be the first graphic novel. All three stories in the trilogy (*Contract with God*, *A Life Force*, and *Dropsie Avenue*) are printed together for the first time in this volume.

Eisner, Will. **Fagin the Jew**. Doubleday, 2003. 0385510098. 121 p. Gr. 9 & Up. The father of graphic novels is known for his portrayal of Jewish life. This time he re-envisioned the character of Fagin, the sinister ringleader of a band of young thieves in Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*.

Gaiman, Neil. **The Books of Magic**. Vertigo, 1993. 1563890828. 200 p. Gr. 9 & Up. A collection of volumes 1-4 of the comic series featuring Tim Hunter, an average slightly nerdy 12-year-old boy, who could one day be one of the world's greatest magicians.

Gaiman, Neil. **The Sandman: Preludes and Nocturnes, Bk. 1**. Vertigo, 1993. 1563890119. Gr. 9 & Up. This classic series is Gaiman's story of a man interested in capturing the physical manifestation of Death but who instead captures the King of Dreams.

Gossett, Christian. **Red Star Vol. 1: The Battle at Dar Kathra's Gate**. Image. 2001. 1582401977. 144 p. Gr. 9 & Up. Presents an alternative history of the Soviet Union, combining science fiction, sorcery and battles. Unique for the illustrations which blend traditional pencil illustration with the latest in 3D computer imagery.

Jacobson, Sid and Ernie Colón. **The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation**. FSG. 2006. 9780809057399. Gr. 9 & Up. At fifteen percent the size of *The 9/11 Report: The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States*, this adaptation successfully makes the report accessible to younger readers and adults.

Lutes, Jason. **Berlin: City of Stones**. Drawn & Quarterly, 2000. 1896597297. Gr. 9 & Up. This black-and-white historical narrative collects eight volumes of a comic book set in Berlin during the late '20s. A multilayered tale of love and politics at the beginning of the Nazi era, it follows the stories of three characters: a 20ish art student from the provinces, a textile worker, and a young Jewish radical.

McCloud, Scott. **Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga, and Graphic Novels**. HarperCollins, 2006. 978-0-06-078094-4. Gr 9 & up. In follow-up to his previous books **Understanding Comics** and **Reinventing Comics**, McCloud covers every aspect of comics creation, from character design and facial expression to the effective use of words and of tools, including computer technology. Directed at beginning comics artists.

Moore, Alan. **Absolute Watchmen**. DC Comics, 2005. 1401207138. 416 p. Gr. 10 & Up. Serialized in 1986-7, this extraordinary story took the comics world by storm, and its fresh approach, more mature and realistic than most other mainstream comics of the time, became a template for much of what came later.

Moore, Alan. **The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Vol. 1**. DC Comics, 2002. 1563898586. Gr. 9 & Up. In 1898, as the glory days of the British Empire were waning, an incredible band of adventurers was brought together to save England in its hour of need. This volume collects the complete best-selling six-issue miniseries.

Moore, Alan. **V for Vendetta**. Vertigo, 1989. 0930289528. 296 p. Gr. 9 & Up. An alternative history of England under fascist rule. Colored pen and ink drawings enhance the story.

Otomo, Katsuhiro. **Akira Vol. 1**. Dark Horse, 2000. 0440416485. 394 p. Gr 9 & up. Originally serialized in Japan between 1981 and 1993, this six-volume series is the first time it's appeared as an English-language graphic novel. Set in Tokyo 38 years after its destruction in World War III the complicated plot revolves around two teenagers in a motorbike gang that encounters a strange child with an old man's features. *op

Satrapa, Marjane. **Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood**. Pantheon Books, 2003. 037571457X. 153 p. Gr. 9 & Up. An autobiography of growing up in Iran during the Islamic revolution of 1979. Simple but expressive black and white illustrations. Look for the sequel **Persepolis II**.

Seagle, Steven T. **It's a Bird...** Illus. by Teddy Kristiansen. Vertigo, 2004. 1401203116. Gr. 9 & Up. Not a Superman story, exactly, more of an experimental, refracted, semi-fictional memoir, with Superman-or, rather, the variety of ideas that Superman represents-as its central symbol. Kristiansen's inventive ink-and-watercolor artwork gives a crisp, arty look to the sections about Seagle's troubled personal life.

Shanower, Eric. **Age of Bronze. Vol 1: A Thousand Ships**. Image, 2001. 1582402000. Gr. 9 & Up. A graphic history of the Trojan War. Rich black and white illustrations give depth with texture and shading. Winner of the 2001 Eisner Award.

Spiegelman, Art. **Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History, Vol. I**. Pantheon, 1997. 0679406417. 159 p. Gr. 9 & Up. A Pulitzer Prize winning-memoir of the author's father, Vladek, a survivor of Hitler's Europe. It explores the son's

relationship with his father and with history itself. Jews are portrayed as mice and Nazis as cats.

Talbot, Bryan. **The Tale of One Bad Rat**. Dark Horse Comics, 1995. 1569710775. Gr. 9 & Up. A tale of a woman's journey away from an abusive father to a squat in London and eventually an inn in the British countryside. Won a 1996 Eisner Award.

Winick, Judd. **Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss and What I Learned**. Holt, 2000. 0805064036. Gr. 9 & Up. Winick pays tribute to his Real World housemate and friend Pedro Zamora, an AIDS activist and educator who died of the disease in 1994. Winick imbues deceptively simple black-and-white comic-strip art with a full spectrum of emotion.

Yoshizumi, Wataru. **Marmalade Boy Vol. 1**. Tokyopop, 2002. 195 p. 1404628746. Gr. 9 & Up. A popular manga series, Miki just wants an ordinary family, but her life is turned upside-down when her parents meet the Matsuuras, and she ends up living in a house with four parents and an annoying stepbrother. *op

Please note: These graphic novels are recommended for purchase by public libraries serving youth. Books were selected based on quality of text, artwork and overall appeal. The titles and suggested age levels only serve as a guide; librarians are encouraged to determine what is best their collections.

For questions contact:

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